

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 01244 242238Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5825

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 1244

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR TEXT LINE 5 PARA 1

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

FOR CHRISTOPFER FROM JORDEN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PN, PEPR
SUBJECT: SEN. ALLEN'S AMENDMENT

REF: STATE 047596

1. IT IS OBVIOUS, AS YOU SAY, THAT THE ALLEN AMENDMENT IS COMPLETELY INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE TREATY. AND THAT, OF COURSE, IS THE REASON HE WILL BE INTRODUCING IT. I THINK IT IS TIME TO FACE UP TO THIS KIND OF CHALLENGE, TO IDENTIFY IT FOR WHAT IT IS, AND TO KNOCK IT BACK---ON ITS MERITS.

2. THE PROPOSED "UNDERSTANDING" THAT SAYS WE SHOULD INITIATE DISCUSSIONS WITH PANAMA ON THE QUESTION OF U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE ONE YEAR BEFORE THE TREATY EXPIRES WILL BE READ HERE VERY CLEARLY FOR WHAT IT IS--A DEVIOUS WAY OF TRYING TO ARRANGE FOR A U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE AFTER THE TREATY EXPIRES. AS YOU KNOW FROM MY MANY PREVIOUS MESSAGE, ONE OF THE MOST ATTRACTIVE FEATURE OF THE NEW TREATIES IS THEIR OPEN ACKNOWLEDGE-
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MENT THAT THE LEGAL U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE HERE HAS A TERMINAL DATE. THE ONLY OTHER MORE ATTRACTIVE FEATURE IS THE END OF THE ZONE AND OF FOREIGN CONTROL OVER PANAMANIAN TERRITORY.

3. I MUST ASSERT UNMISTAKABLY THAT THE KIND OF "UNDERSTANDING" OUTLINED IN PARA. 2 OF REFTEL WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE IN PANAMA. IT WOULD NOT ONLY CAUSE INDIGESTION, BUT WOULD BRING ABOUT A

POSSIBLY FATAL HEART ATTACK. WE REALLY SHOULD NOT TRY TO PLAY THIS
KIND OF GAME WITH THIS LITTLE COUNTRY. I AM CERTAIN THAT WE HAVE
NUMEROUS FRIENDS IN THE SENATE WHO WOULD BE PREPARED TO TAKE
ON THE PROPOSED "KILLER" AMENDMENT, AND KILL IT AS IT DESERVES.
BUT LET US FACE THIS KIND OF CHALLENGE HEAD ON, NOT TRY TO
FIND SOME "MIDDLE GROUND" WHICH MEANS A WATERING DOWN OF THE
REAL INTENT OF THE TREATIES AS WRITTEN. THE PANAMANIANIANS HAVE
BEEN PUSHED TO THE WALL, AS YOU KNOW. THEY ARE SICK AND TIRED
OF BEING URGED TO MEET OUR STANDARDS. I REALLY THINK THE
QUESTION WE NOW FACE IS WHETHER SENATORIAL ARROGANCE OR A
REAL SPIRIT OF EVEN-HANDED TREATMENT AND GENUINE PARTNERSHIP
IS TO PREVAIL. I THEREFORE URGE THAT WE NOT KNUCKLE UNDER TO
ALLEN BUT STAND UP AND FIGHT HIM. I'M SURE A GOOD IRISHMAN
LIKE PAT MOYNIHAN WOULD BE WILLING TO TAKE HIM ON. AND IF HE
NEEDS AMMUNITION, I WILL BE HAPPY TO SUPPLY IT.
JORDEN

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Message Attributes

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